

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /029 W

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P R 211120Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6500

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS KABUL 0394

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NYU CONFERENCE ON AL BIRUNI AND RUMI

STATE: FOR NEA

1. MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE NAVIN CALLED IN
PAO JAN 19 TO REGISTER "FRIENDLY COMPLAINT" THAT NO AFGHAN
REPRESENTATION HAD BEEN INVITED ATTEND NYU'S JANUARY 28 AND
29 CONFERENCE ON AL BIRUNI AND RUMI (SEE NESA-8 WF 9, JAN 14).
DR. NAVIN BEGAN BY SAYING HE UNDERSTOOD NEITHER USIS OR THE
EMBASSY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR NYU CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS
NOR WAS THE US GOVERNMENT SPONSORING IT, NEVERTHELESS WISHED
BRING CONCERN OF GOA TO OUR ATTENTION AND REQUEST ANY HELP WE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE TO RECTIFY SITUATIONM DR. NAVIN
ARGUED BOTH BIRUNI AND RUMI ARE AFGHAN CULTURAL FIGURES WHICH
MAKES IT ALL THE MORE STRANGE NO AFGHAN SCHOLAR INVITED PARTI-
CIPATE NOR WAS AFGHAN AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON AS WERE AMBASSADORS
INDIA, PAKISTAN AND IRAN.

2. DR. NAVIN REFERRED TO HIS PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION AT
DECEMBER JAKARTA CONFERENCE ON CULTURE POLICIES FOR ASIA COUN-
TRIES CALLING ON NATIONS "TO HONOR AND RESPECT THE NATIONAL
IDENTITY AND BELONGING OF MEN OF ARTS AND SCIENCE OF OTHER
NATIONS AND NOT CLAIM THEM AS THEIR OWN."

3. AFGHANISTAN HELD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BERUNI JUNE 16-23,
1973 WHICH INCLUDED AMERICAN PARTICIPANT (REF KABUL 2326).

4. PAO STRESSED PRIVATE NATURE THIS CONFERENCE AND THAT US GOVERN-
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MENT COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT TELL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WHOM THEY

SHOULD INVITE. NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO MAKE INQUIRIES RE CONFEREN-
CECE.

5. BELIEVE GOA MIGHT BE PREPARED SEND SCHOLAR PARTICIPATE CONFERENCE
IF SUCH INVITED BY CONFERENCE ORGANISERS. INVITATION TO AFGHAN
AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR ATTEND WOULD ALSO APPRECIATED BY MINISTER
AND GOA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT CONTRACT ORGANIZER CONFERENCE
PROFESSOR PETER CHELKOWSKI AND DETERMINE IF NYU WILLING EXTEND
INVITATIONS TO AFGHAN SCHOLAR AND/OR AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR PARTI-
CIPATE CONFERENCE.
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